

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1 to 13 without prejudice to or waiver of their subject matter.

Claims 1-13 (Cancelled).

Please add Claims 14 to 23, as follows:

--14. (New) A method adapted to an image forming apparatus which forms an image on a sheet and discharges the sheet to a stacking unit adapted to stack sheets, said method comprising:

causing said image forming apparatus to operate in one of a first mode for discharging the sheet to said stacking unit in the image formed face-up condition and a second mode for discharging the sheet to said stacking unit in the image formed face-down condition;

selecting one of said first mode and said second mode;

a control step of making different an amount of sheets stacked in said stacking unit in said first mode and an amount of sheets stacked in said stacking unit in said second mode.

15. (New) A method according to claim 14, wherein said control step inhibits the discharge of a sheet to said stacking unit when an amount of sheets in said stacking unit reaches a first amount during discharging in said first mode, and does not inhibit the

discharge of a sheet to said stacking unit when an amount of sheets in said stacking unit reaches the first amount during discharging in said second mode.

16. (New) A method according to claim 15, wherein said control step inhibits the discharge of a sheet to said stacking unit when an amount of sheets in said stacking unit reaches a second amount during discharging in said second mode, wherein said second amount is larger than said first amount.

17. (New) A method according to claim 14, wherein said image forming apparatus forms the image based on an image data from an external apparatus input via a predetermined interface on the sheet.

18. (New) A method according to claim 14, the sheet discharged in the first mode is a sheet having inferior stackability, and wherein the sheet discharged in the second mode is a sheet having preferable stackability.

19. (New) A method according to claim 18, wherein said image forming apparatus performs the first mode for discharging the sheet to said stacking unit in the image formed face-up condition to discharge sheets having inferior stackability including envelopes, cardboards or overhead projector sheets.

20. (New) A method according to claim 14, wherein said control step uses data from a sensor adapted to detect sheets on said stacking unit.

21. (New) A method according to claim 14, wherein said control step uses data from a counter adapted to count a number of discharged sheets.

22. (New) A method according to claim 14, wherein said selecting step selects one of the first mode and the second mode based on input setting in a host computer to output an image data.

23. (New) A method according to claim 22, wherein said image forming apparatus discharges a sheet on which is formed an image based on an image data from said host computer to a stacking unit selected in said host computer from a plurality of stacking units.--